

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 17, 2003

CONTACT:
Dena Graziano (202)226-6888

CONYERS CRITICIZES DECISION TO KEEP DETAINEE **NAMES SECRET**

Representative John Conyers, Jr., the Ranking Member, on the House Judiciary Committee issued the following statement today following the DC Circuit Court decision to keep September 11 detainee names secret:

"This case demonstrates the lengths to which the Ashcroft Justice Department is willing to go to keep its actions, many of which were found by the Inspector General to be abusive and coercive, away from the eyes and ears of the American public. It is unclear to me, as it is to many members of the public, how releasing the names of detainees would compromise security - if a terrorist organization has been unable to reach its members for weeks or months on end, it would seem fair to say that they've figured out they've been detained. We ought to err on the side of disclosure, rather than on the side of secret detentions and secret trials as the present Administration has done."

##JUD-108-06/17/03##